(iv) ऐसी मांग जिसके लिए किश्तों की मंजूरी दी गई हों।

Electoral Reform; recommendations of Election Commission

313. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has recommended drastic changes in the present electoral system; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposals of the Election Commission were discussed by Government at various level including the political parties; if so, the details of such an exercise; and

(c) whether Government propose to translate the recommendations of the Election Commission; if so, within which time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT. OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b): Important proposal made by the Election Commission of India regarding electoral reforms are given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House. *(see below)*. These proposals as also the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee and certain other proposals on electoral reforms were discussed in a series of meetings at various levels including at the level of Prime Minister during 1992 to 1994. On the basis of these discussions, certain proposals were thereafter discussed with leaders of various political parties in June, 1994. After taking into account the views of political parties, the Government introduced in the Lok Sabha three Bills namely, the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1994, the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1994 and the Election Commission (charging of Expenses on the Consolidated Fund of India) Bill, 1994. These Bills have since lapsed with the dissolution of the Tenth Lok Sabha.

(c) Government is keen to finalise a package on electoral reforms as soon as possible. It, therefore, proposes to discuss shortly various proposals including those received from the Election Commission with leaders of various political parties.

Statement

The important proposals made by the Election Commission regarding Electoral Reforms

1. The Election Commission should be a single member body.
2. The Election Commission should have an independent secretariat and the expenditure on the Commission should be "charged" and not "voted".
3. The electoral rolls should be revised intensively every alternate years and the summary revision in other years should continue.**
4. Multi-purpose identity cards should be issued to all Indian citizens by the concerned administrative authorities and production of such identity cards may be made obligatory whereover the card holder is required to establish his identity including elections.
5. The District Electoral Officer concerned should be statutorily required to be consulted and empowered to have a say in the police arrangement for elections.
6. The political bigwigs who harbour proclaimed abscondors and are seen openly in their company, should be proceeded against. The power to grant parole or remission of sentence of convicted criminals, should be sparingly exercised when the elections are imminent or in progress.
7. The unauthorised possession of ballot boxes or electronic voting machine, and unauthorised printing of ballot papers should be made cognisable offence.
8. Increase in the amount of security deposit should be for all candidates.
9. There should be a minimum of 10 proposers for every candidate drawn from different polling areas.

10. No candidate should be allowed to contest from more than one constituency.
11. The campaign period should be reduced from 20 days to 14 days to bring down the election expenses and the administrative cost on the maintenance of law and order.
12. The Election Commission may be empowered to countermand election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the Returning Officer.
13. Every registered political party should publish its account annually and these should be audited by agencies specified by the Commission.
14. Non-maintenance of the true account of election expenses or not filing of its true copy within the prescribed time and manner should be punishable with imprisonment and fine and on conviction the candidate should be disqualified for a period of 6 years.
15. The candidate who fails to lodge his election expenses return within the prescribed time, should automatically stand disqualified for a period of five years.
16. Violation of the Model Code of Conduct should result in the election of the candidate(s) in whose favour or with whose consent or connivance, the violation was caused, being declared void and that the candidate(s) should be disqualified for a period of six years.
17. The existing provision in section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, relating to registration of political parties, should not be deleted and there should be a specific provision to de-register a party if it violates the undertaking given under the section. The power to de-register should vest in the High Court.
18. The provisions of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, are violative of and repugnant to the provisions of article 324 of the Constitution. The authority to make rules should therefore, be conferred totally on the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall, however, consult the Central Government. The rules so made need not be placed on the Table of the House.
19. The officer nominated or designated as Chief Electoral Officer should not be allowed to do any other work except with the approval of Election Commission.
20. Restoration of pre-1974 position in respect of election expenses.
21. Increase in the ceiling of election expenses as laid in Rule 90 of Conduct of Election Rule, 1961££
22. Amendment to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioner (Condition of Service) Act, 1991 to provide that in a multi-member Election Commission, the decision of the Chief Election Commissioner shall be final.
23. Election Commission should be given powers to take disciplinary action against officers of Government while they are performing election related duties.

कराधान प्रणाली में सुधार हेतु उठाए गए कदम

314. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि काले धन पर रोक लगाने के लिये वर्तमान कराधान प्रणाली मजबूत नहीं है और उसमें सुधार किये जाने की आवश्यकता है;

£As against the recommendation of the Election Commission for a single member Election Commission, it was decided to make the Commission a three-member body with effect from 1-10-1993.

££By administrative instructions, the Election Commission has already implemented this recommendation.

£The scheme of issuance of Photo Identity Cards to voters has been accepted by the Government.

££Limits of election expenses were earlier revised in October, 1994. Fresh recommendation of Election Commission for further increase in the limits were received February, 1996.